Probe in Scrap Deal

586. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Pioneer, dated 3rd September, 1997 under the heading "Centre may ask CBI to probe PSU Scrap deal";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the case relating to the sale of scrap by the MSTC Ltd. to private firm has been referred to CBI; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the official concerned for awarding the sale to the private firm?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, However, the press report is not wholly correct.

M/s. Sujana Steels Ltd., Hyderabad (and not Surana Steel as mentioned in the Press Report) had approached MSTC during early 1996 for purchase of 20,000 tonnes of shredded scrap from its Madras stockyard at the then ruling prices. The MSTC Board considered the request and decided (and not the then CMD, MSTC as alleged in the news report) to seel the stocks to the above firm under a tripartite agreement between M/s. MSTC Ltd., Sujana Steels Ltd. and SJK Steel Corporation Ltd. under the post-dated cheque facility scheme of the Company. Prior to this, MSTC had proposed to invest Rs. 15 crores in the equity of M/s. SJK Steel Corporation Ltd, of which M/s. Sujana Steels Ltd. was a joint co-promoter. According to the tripartite agreement Rs. 15 crores were to be adjusted against MSTC's equity participation in the above joint venture proposal subject to Government approval within a period of six months. In the absence of Government approval for the said joint venture proposals, the amount became due for payment but the post dated cheques furnished by M/s. Sujana Steels Ltd. bounced. In view of this, MSTC Ltd. has initiated legal proceedings against M/s. Sujana Steels Ltd. for recovery of the amount.

(c) The Ministry of Steel has not referred the matter relating to sale of scrap by MSTC through the private firm to CBI.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Failure of Sale Target of SAIL

587. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale target of Steel Authority of India Limited has failed in the recent months; if so, the reasons of failure;

(b) whether the cheap import of steel is influencing the SAIL's market; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to avoid this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The total sales of pig iron and mild steel during the current financial year, upto October, 1997, have registered a growth over that of the corresponding period last year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Cheap import of steel is influencing the Indian steel producers' market including that of SAIL. Steps have been initiated for levying anti-dumping duty on such steel materials.

निजी क्षेत्र में इस्पात इकाइयों

588. **श्री चीमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ला**:क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(**क**) विभित्र राज्यों में निजी क्षेत्र में स्थापित की गी इस्पात इकाइयों का उद्यतन ब्यौरा क्या है;

(**ख**) क्या उपर्युक्त किसी इकाई में कोई विदेशी निवेश किया गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;